

RECOGNIZING CONTRIBUTIONS OF PEOPLE OF INDIAN ORIGIN TO UNITED STATES AND BENEFITS OF WORKING TOGETHER WITH INDIA

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 11, 2004

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, as a cosponsor of H. Con. Res. 352, I strongly support this resolution which honors the contributions of people of Indian origin to the United States and declares that Congress is committed to working together with India to promote peace, prosperity, and freedom among all countries.

As the largest democracy in the world, India has shown a genuine commitment to improving its economic ties to the United States, and the U.S. and India have formally committed to work together to build peace and security in South Asia, increase bilateral trade and investment, meet global environmental challenges, fight disease, and eradicate poverty.

There is no doubt that the close relationship between the U.S. and India is crucial to world stability and to the economic futures of both countries. India's long-term economic potential is tremendous, and the U.S. is already its largest trading and investment partner.

I am hopeful that we will foster an even closer relationship in the coming years by working together to tackle new and existing challenges.

CELEBRATING GIRLS INCORPORATED OF THE ISLAND CITY

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 12, 2004

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 40th Anniversary of Girls Incorporated of the Island City in Alameda, California. Girls, Inc. of the Island City held a successful 5th Annual Celebration of Excellence luncheon on May 1, 2004, in conjunction with their milestone anniversary.

Forty years ago, a group of Alameda citizens established a program for girls which was incorporated as Alameda Girl's Club, Inc. Kaye van Valkenberg, served as its first Board President (1964–1967) and together with other local civic leaders inspired what is now called Girls Inc. of the Island City. Over 300 girls currently participate in Girls Inc. of the Island City programs.

The mission of the organization is to inspire all girls to be strong, smart and bold through innovative programs, activities, and advocacy. The goal of its Activity Centers is to provide quality services to children and families, to encourage and support children's growth, and assist families to meet economic needs and family goals.

Girls Inc. of the Island City is a local member organization of the national Girls Inc. organization offering programs focused on helping girls of all races, ethnicity, economic and social backgrounds avoid violence, drug addiction, and teen pregnancy; teaching girls literacy in economics and the media; and en-

couraging girls to pursue careers in math, science and technology, and become community leaders.

Six program areas—careers, and life planning; health and sexuality, leadership and community action, sports and adventure; self-reliance and life skills; and culture and heritage are the foundation of Girls, Inc. of the Island City.

Girls, Inc. of Island City continues to inspire all girls to be strong, smart and bold and to have confidence and be safe in the world. I applaud its forty years of exemplary service and join the city of Alameda in appreciation for this organization's efforts to make a positive difference in the lives of girls.

REMEMBERING BILLIE ERLINE THORNTON

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 12, 2004

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to honor a dedicated and successful woman from Van Alstyne, Texas—Billie Erline Thornton, who passed away on March 17, 2004.

Billie was a successful businesswoman. After graduating from Anna High School and attending Draughn's Business College, she worked for the First National Bank in Dallas and the First National Bank in Anna. She finished her career as the manager of the Hurricane Creek Country Club, where she worked for nineteen years.

While she was a dedicated businesswoman, she was also a devoted wife, mother, and grandmother. She was married to her husband, Bob Thornton, for fifty-eight years and she helped raise their three daughters. She is survived by her husband, her daughters and their husbands, Sheryl and Walt Priest of North Little Rock, Arkansas, Brenda and Wayne Baggett of Friendswood, Texas, and Linda and David Wood of Van Alstyne, Texas. She was also the proud grandmother of Brian Priest and his wife Amanda, Stewart Priest, Emily Baggett and her husband James, Trevor Wood, and Tyler Wood. She also had one great-grandchild, Gabriella Hess. Her son, Bryan Norwood Thornton, preceded her in death, as did her parents, Bernie Reed and Effie Smith Bryan, one sister, Jimmie Wolfenson, and one brother, Richard Bryan.

Billie's warm smile and good heart will be missed throughout the community of Van Alstyne. On behalf of her family and friends, I want to take this opportunity in the House of Representatives to pay our last respects to this beloved woman—Billie Erline Thornton.

COMMEMORATING THE RETIREMENT OF LEMUEL M. PROCTOR, CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER, WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSIT AUTHORITY, 2004

HON. ALBERT RUSSELL WYNN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 12, 2004

Mr. WYNN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize a man who has dem-

onstrated that one person can make a difference in the lives of millions of people. If you are proud of the Metrorail system, you can thank Lemuel M. Proctor, who is the Chief Operating Officer for Rail Service at the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA). Today, I honor the almost-thirty years of service that Mr. Proctor has given to millions of citizens of Maryland and the Washington region.

A lifelong resident of Mitchellville, Mr. Proctor received his education and training in Prince George's County schools and the U.S. Air Force. From his modest beginnings as an electrical mechanic in 1974, Mr. Proctor steadily rose through the ranks to become one of the highest-ranking African-American executives at WMATA.

Mr. Proctor's credibility with rank and file employees has been critical to his success, particularly on September 11, 2001. On that day, Mr. Proctor had just overseen a busy morning rush hour, and many operators were returning to their home bases. After the morning's terrorist attacks, Mr. Proctor's task was to convince railcar operators to turn their trains around and transport passengers home safely. Mr. Proctor ensured that his employees had protective gear and sent them out to the system, where they performed their duties without hesitation. On that day, Metrorail transported passengers into and out of the region on back-to-back rush hours without incident.

With his energy and intelligence, Lem Proctor could have been a success in any line of work he desired. With the world at his feet, Mr. Proctor chose to make public service his vocation, and for that, we should all be grateful. I wish him the very best in his new endeavors.

IN HONOR OF CUYAHOGA SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICE CENTER'S 30TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 12, 2004

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Cuyahoga Special Education Service Center (CSESC), as they enter into their thirtieth year of services and support focused on thousands of children with special needs and their families residing throughout Cuyahoga County. The staff of CSESC has provided priceless educational tools to enhance learning and discovery for countless children—enhancing their hopes and creating new dreams.

CSESC offers a variety of programs and services to more than 23,000 children and youth with disabilities throughout Cuyahoga County. The mission of CSESC is to provide outstanding educational opportunities for all children with disabilities aged 3–21, to elevate the academic achievement of these children, and to ultimately dissolve the divide that separates these special children from the mainstream. Moreover, this vital support serves to enrich every facet within the life of a child who faces these challenges on a daily basis.

From birth through adulthood CSESC offers comprehensive programs focused on the individual needs of every child and her family. Some of the main services provided by the